GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2336
ANSWERED ON:30.07.2002
MID-DAY-MEAL SCHEME
PRABHUNATH SINGH

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that a number of State Governments have not lifted foodgrains from the Food Corporation of India provided under Mid-Day-Meal Scheme;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken in this regard;

(d) whether the Government have made any survey and reviewed the implementation of Mid-day-Meal Scheme; and

(e) if so, findings thereof in regard to the effectiveness of the scheme?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF. RITA VERMA)

(a),(b)&(c): The National Programme for Nutritional Support to Primary Education (NP-NSPE) popularly called Mid-day Meal Scheme is being implemented in all States/UTs except Lakshadweep which runs its own programme. As per the information available, during 2001-02, all States/UTs except Jammu& Kashmir have lifted food-grains under the scheme. The Government of Jammu & Kashmir have informed that the programme has not been implemented due to certain problems. This Ministry has urged the Government of Jammu & Kashmir to mobilize resources to make institutional arrangements for prompt switch-over to a cooked meal programme. Recently, State Government has issued instructions regarding implementation of the scheme.

(d)&(e): An evaluation has been undertaken in 10 States to assess the efficiency and effectiveness of the Programme by an independent agency, Operation Research Group, New Delhi. Thestudy covers Assam, Guajarat, Haryana, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. The report was submitted in September, 1999. One of the findings of the report was that while the programme has given boost to enrolment in Assam, Madhya Pradesh, Uttra Pradesh and West Bengal; in 6 other States it has had positive impact on attendance and retention.

Besides, a study conducted by NCERT on State policies onIncentive Schemes in Primary Schools and their Contribution to Girl's Participation, completed in April 2000, also covers the Mid-day Meal scheme in UttarPradesh and Tamil Nadu. The study found that the Noon Meal Scheme of Tamil Nadu and supply of food grains under MDM in Uttar Pradesh have helped improve the enrolment and retention of girls in schools.